

Founded, 11 December 1924

# The Livingston County Historical Society

"Preservation of the Jones House, and the City Hall--Firehouse Complex"

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

## UPDATE

(Founded 13 February 1984)

All Issues of UPDATE  
Through 1987

A COLLECTION OF

ALL

ISSUES OF

## UPDATE

1984 -- 1987

28 Pages

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# The Livingston County Historical Society

c/o Pontiac National Bank, P.O. Box 680, Pontiac, Il. 61764

## U P D A T E

Page One

February 13, 1984

A considerable amount of gratitude should be extended to Ferne Lehman for her effort last year in preparing the "1983 Year Book." Although filling some of the purposes of a YEAR BOOK, it is not intended that the UPDATE follow the format of a YEAR BOOK. Present plans are to publish a page or two of the UPDATE from time to time. Page One carries the 1984 list of officers and directors of the Society plus the schedule of meetings and programs. It is hoped that 1984 committee appointments can be included in Page Two of the UPDATE, which is scheduled for distribution at the next meeting, February 23, 1984. (Prepared by Robert Schlosser.)

-- --- ---- --- ---- --

PRESIDENT: Robert Arnold Schlosser  
(844-5736) 811 W. Moulton St., Pontiac

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Harold Byrne  
(842-1313) 727 E. Water St., Pontiac

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Glenn Chenoweth  
(842-1584) Rural Route 3, Pontiac

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Lynda Unterman  
(844-6303) 1208 Indiana Ave., Pontiac

SECRETARY: Ferne Lehman  
(844-5697) Rural Route 1, Pontiac

TREASURER: Marcia E. Cox  
(842-1539) 217 W. Grove St., Pontiac

DIRECTORS:

3 Year:	James McCabe	Kathy Grafton	Susan Michel	Arthur Grotevant
2 Year:	John Perring	Mary Erickson	Paul Trainor	Claire Potter
1 Year:	Lynda Unterman	Betty Harris	J. Paul Yost	J. M. Luther

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MEETINGS and PROGRAMS - 7:30 p.m. (except - May 20th - Sunday Field Trip)  
in the chapel, second floor, Evenglow Lodge.

Jan 26 - "A Walk Through D.A.R. Period Rooms," by Marcia Weber

Feb 23 - "Wagons West," by Rick Miller & Steve Metz Families

Mar 22 - "The Public Library - Then & Now," by Beth Lee

Apr 26 - "Collecting for Fun and Profit," by Jim Miller

May 20 - "A Sunday Afternoon All Membership Field Trip," see NOTE below

Sept 27 - "Music Through the Years," by Robert McKenzie

Oct 25 - "Backpacking," by Dr. & Mrs. Karl Deterding

Nov 20 (A Tues.) - "Civil War Eastern Theater," by Gene Burnett

NOTE - Details of "Sunday Afternoon Field Trip" will be available later.

Our thanks go to the 1983 PROGRAM COMMITTEE, who arranged the program fare listed above:

Peg Spalding and Mabel Marlar (Co-Chairmen),  
Lucille Goodrich, Betty Harris, Paul Yost.

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# The Livingston County Historical Society

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## UPDATE

Page Two

February 23, 1984

### COMMITTEES, 1984

#### PROGRAM:

Mabel Marlar and Betty Harris (Co-Chairman),  
Lucille Goodrich, J. Paul Yost, Kathy Grafton,  
Barbara Sancken.

#### MEMBERSHIP:

Betty Harris (Chairman),  
Mary Catherine Dievendorf, Lorraine Sellmeyer.

#### PUBLICITY:

Susan Michel, plus her choice of help from members not  
on a committee.

#### FINANCE:

Marcia Cox and Harold Byrne (Co-Chairmen),  
Glenn Chenoweth, John Perring.

#### NOMINATING:

Harold Byrne, J. M. Luther, J. Paul Yost.

#### HISTORIAN:

Pearle Sutherland.

#### ARTIFACT CURATORY:

Mary Erickson and Claire Potter (Co-Chairmen),  
Margaret Spalding, James McCabe, Glenn Chenoweth.

#### RESTORATION:

John Perring (Chairman),  
Betty Harris, J. M. Luther, Lynda Unterman, J. Paul Yost,  
Marcia Cox, Mary Erickson, Claire Potter, Kathy Grafton,  
Harold Byrne, Mary Catherine Dievendorf, Thelma Asper.

#### SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

for Kathy Grafton: gather and compile appropriate  
information to serve as a "VIELEY" BRIDGE MEMORIAL.

#### FUND RAISING:

J. M. Luther, Harold Byrne, Hubert Boswell (Co-Chairmen),  
James McCabe, Claire Potter, Eileen Foley,  
Chrystal and Eunice Thompson;  
plus other members who may be needed.

#### HOUSE:

Arthur Grotevant and Paul Trainor.

#### REFRESHMENTS:

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Luther,  
with help of selected Hosts and/or Hostesses.

-- -- -- -- --  
The order and titles of the above committees follows to some extent the  
listing of committees in the 1983 YEAR BOOK. The above list differs

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Page Three

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considerably from the list provided in the "MINUTES OF A MEETING OF LIVINGSTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HELD IN THE BASEMENT OF THE PONTIAC PUBLIC LIBRARY ON MARCH 30, 1964." That meeting was called to order by J. Paul Yost, President, and the report of the committee on bylaws was presented and adopted. In Article "V. Committees," the following order and titles are listed:

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Library Committee          | E. Programs Committee    |
| B. Museum Committee           | F. Membership Committee  |
| C. Publications Committee     | G. Nominations Committee |
| D. Historical Sites Committee |                          |

Your President's work load would be reduced if committees could stand without change from year to year. However, as circumstances change different committees are needed as shown in a comparison of the above list and the list on Page Two. Ten years ago there would have been little need for a RESTORATION COMMITTEE. Since acquiring the JONES HOUSE, that committee was added and fund raising became a challenge. As the JONES HOUSE nears completion, other committee changes may be in order. Personnel also changes. From time to time, members resign from a committee or ask to be assigned to a different committee. A change in one committee may result in several other changes.

Co-operation and co-ordination between committees can be helpful. Each committee should keep other committees informed where their efforts tend to complement and/or overlap another. If an activity rates PUBLICITY, be sure to inform Susan Michel.

The ARTIFACTS and STORAGE committees of previous years are combined in the 1984 list under the heading of ARTIFACT CURATORY; the word CURATORY being used for a committee of curators. In many museums a curator has complete charge of artifacts including: acquisition, care, storage, cataloging, display and the disposal of unwanted items. As the JONES HOUSE nears completion, this committee's role may increase.

Pearle Sutherland, with her labor of love in compiling history and providing funds for worthy Society projects, has more than earned her title of HISTORIAN.

The DESERT and the BEAN DINNER committees of last year are combined under the heading of FUND RAISING. As the JONES HOUSE nears completion, it seems that it should become a focal point of some of our fund raising projects. As of this writing, the FUND RAISING committee has not made definite plans. A later issue of UPDATE shall carry their plans.

The last two committees on the list could be combined under a heading



## U P D A T E

Page Four

February 23, 1984

of AFTERGLOW. These moments are cherished by many members and tend to focus our thoughts on attending the next meeting and a resolve to give the Society our best efforts.

The JONES HOUSE was the first residence in Livingston County to be listed in the National Register. The JONES HOUSE was built in 1858; forty-eight years later, in 1906, the "VIELEY" bridge became a landmark in the county highway system. The unique trusses in the main span of this single lane bridge are known as bowstring arches. This rust clad structure served its purpose for many years. The bridge is inadequate for modern traffic loads and needs to be replaced. Should it become a memorial listed in the National Register or should it be destroyed? A logical use in a suitable location would be difficult to find in trying to preserve the "VIELEY" bridge.

At the board of directors meeting of the Livingston County Historical Society, which convened at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 1984, in the board room of the Pontiac National Bank, a motion was made as follows: due to a lack of money the Society could not fund or sponsor a preservation project involving the "Vieley" Bridge; however, an amendment to the motion states that we ask the authority, or authorities, who remove this bridge to do so in such a way, if possible, that the material could be reassembled at some other location at some later date by some other organization; the motion as amended carried.

People are more wonderfully made than any man made structure, yet people do not live forever. The best that we can do for the memory of people is to erect monuments and create various memorials. Apparently, the Federal government, at some distant city, will compile an archive file for the "VIELEY" bridge. It seems fitting that we should have a local record, such as a file folder or scrap book, of appropriate historical information pertaining to the "VIELEY" bridge; a record that will also serve as a "VIELEY" BRIDGE MEMORIAL. Society members should be pleased that Kathy Grafton accepted this SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT.

Speaking of memorials, our Society is greatly honored by the number and size of donations and memorial contributions received to date. To complete the JONES HOUSE and to maintain a museum a considerable amount of money is needed. Contributions to the projects of the Livingston County Historical Society are tax deductible. The 1983 YEAR BOOK carried a list of DONORS and a list of MEMORIALS. It is planned to carry up to date listings in a future issue of UPDATE.

(Prepared by Robert Schlosser)

# The Livingston County Historical Society

c/o Pontiac National Bank, P.O. Box 680, Pontiac, Il. 61764

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

UPDATE  
Page Five

Issue Number Three  
22 March 1984

In a recent issue of the Pontiac Daily Leader dated Saturday, February 25, 1984, in the REMEMBER? column by Barbara Sancken, an item appeared having a date line of Feb. 25, 1944, which reads:

"Dr. John H. Ryan, prominently identified with the religious and civic life of Pontiac for many years, celebrated his 84th birthday today at his home, 404 East Water Street. He was one of the original organizers of the Pontiac Chautauqua association."

Mr. J. M. Luther, one of our very active members and a past president, supplied a Daily Leader REMEMBER? item having a date line of March 10, 1925, which reads:

"The Livingston County Historical Society has perfected its permanent organization by electing the following officers: president, John H. Ryan; vice president, W. W. McCulloch; secretary, Henry Mies; treasurer, D. S. Myers Jr. G. C. Armstrong was named vice president for Pontiac Township."

Information such as shown above is helpful to historians and selected items could be used in future issues of UPDATE. What can you supply that mentions our Society or is important to our Society? Items can be returned to you after they have been copied.

The Charter for the Livingston County Historical Society shows a date of 11 December 1924. In addition to the names in the above article the name of J. B. Grotevant also appears on the Charter Statement.

Using information supplied by Mr. J. M. Luther, including an article in a Daily Leader dated Nov. 22, 1963, the following two paragraph historical sketch was compiled:

In an election sometime after 10 March 1925, date of the above article, it appears that the Rev. John H. Ryan was again elected president and that G. C. Armstrong was elected secretary-treasurer and registered agent. Directors elected were L. W. Tuesburg, Mrs. J. C. Dawson of Fairbury, L. Burton Orr of Dwight and C. F. Barrett of Wing. In 1948, the Rev. Ryan died and L. W. Tuesburg, also known as Judge Tuesburg, became president. Late in 1963, with most of the society officers deceased, the State of Illinois was about to dissolve the corporation.

Letters dated November 12, 1963, were sent to a select list of people to meet for a dinner at Pauls's New Log Cabin on Tuesday, November 19, 1963, for the purpose of electing permanent officers and making plans for future activities. The letters bore three signatures: J. Paul Yost, President; Reid R. Tombaugh, Vice President; L. W. Tuesburg, Secretary. J. Paul Yost continued as president to the middle of 1976. He was followed by Reid Tombaugh who served two years to mid 1978; then Dorthea Green to mid 1979; J. M. Luther served until the end of 1982 and Harold Byrne served for the calendar year of 1983. There may be flaws in this sketch; however, the state of the Society today indicates that the effort to revive it in 1963 was indeed successful.

One indicator of the state of our society is membership. Eighty-nine members are listed in the roster on the next two pages of UPDATE.

# The Livingston County Historical Society

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## UPDATE

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22 March 1984

### 1 9 8 4   M E M B E R S H I P   R O S T E R

Armbruster, Evelyn ..... 844-3473 16 Crystal Ct.	Goodrich, Lucille ..... 692-3873 402 S. 3rd., Fairbury 61739
Asper, Thelma ..... 844-3218 10 Garden Ave.	Grafton, Kathy ..... 842-2268 1202 N. Walnut
Beebe, Patricia ..... 844-3440 739 S. Locust	Grotevant, Mary ..... 844-5268 907 E. Water
Boddington, Walter J. .. 844-7048 115 Bungalow Pl.	Grotevant, Arthur ..... 844-5268 907 E. Water
Boswell, Catherine ..... 844-5575 601 E. John	Harris, Bernadine ..... 844-5938 410 E. Water
Boswell, Hubert ..... 844-5575 601 E. John	Harris, Betty ..... 844-5938 410 E. Water
Byrne, Evelyn ..... 842-1313 727 E. Water	Harris, Jeanne ..... 844-5707 124 S. Walnut
Byrne, Harold ..... 842-1313 727 E. Water	Hawk, O. L. .... 692-3054 308 E. Ash, Fairbury 61739
Campbell, Jessie ..... 844-7569 412 Elmwood	Henderson, Ethel ..... 844-6131 215 E. Washington
Chamberlain, Helen ..... 844-7075 520 W. South	Hepperly, Oveta ..... 844-7733 Rural Route 2, Chenoa 61726
Chenoweth, Glen ..... 842-1584 Rural Route 3	Hepperly, Lawrence ..... 844-7733 Rural Route 2, Chenoa 61726
Clay, Marjorie ..... 844-3468 421 W. Lincoln	Johnston, Helen ..... 844-7340 412 W. Grove
Clay, Alonzo ..... 844-3468 421 W. Lincoln	Johnston, Robert ..... 844-7340 412 W. Grove
Cox, Marcia ..... 842-1539 217 W. Grove	Kipfer, Hazel ..... 842-1524 413 W. Lincoln
Cox, Daren ..... 842-1539 217 W. Grove	Langan, Gertrude ..... 844-3240 415 E. Washington
Coyne, Dorothy ..... 844-6229 222 Lincoln	Lehman, Ferne ..... 844-5697 Rural Route 1
DeFries, Barbara ..... 692-2562 306½ S. 3rd., Fairbury 61739	Lobb, Margaret ..... 844-7766 412 E. Payson
Dievendorf, Mary ..... 844-3613 301 S. Mill	Lock, Gladys ..... 842-2686 Lincolnshire Apt. E4
Dievendorf, Robert ..... 844-3613 301 S. Mill	Lock, Lee ..... 842-2686 Lincolnshire Apt. E4
Erickson, Marry ..... 844-5484 Rural Route 3	Long, Helen ..... 844-6873 410 E. Water
Erickson, Lloyd ..... 844-5484 Rural Route 3	Luther, Genevieve ..... 844-5496 503 W. Lincoln
Foley, Eileen ..... 844-6505 410 E. Water	Luther, J. M. .... 844-5496 503 W. Lincoln
Foley, Rosemary ..... 844-6505 410 E. Water	Marlar, Mabel ..... 688-3415 Strawn 61775

# The Livingston County Historical Society

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## U P D A T E

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22 March 1984

### 1 9 8 4   M E M B E R S H I P   R O S T E R

Mateer, Wilford .....	Spalding, Margaret ..... 844-6836
Rural Route, Odell 60460	205 W. Torrance
McCabe, Ruth ..... 844-7063	Stewart, Mrs. Virgil ... 657-8135
Rural Route 2	214 E. John, Forrest 61741
McCabe, James J. .... 844-7063	Stewart, Virgil ..... 657-8135
Rural Route 2	214 E. John, Forrest 61741
Meyer, Margaretha ..... 688-3451	Stoutemyer, Louise ..... 635-3249
Strawn 61775	307 Oak, Chatsworth 60921
Michel, Susan ..... 844-7326	Strock, Elaine ..... 844-5863
622 N. Main	221 W. South
Mies, Alice ..... 844-7739	Sutherland, Pearle ..... 844-3264
8 Westview Dr.	520 W. Grove
Mies, Eugene ..... 844 7739	Thompson, Chrystal ..... 743-5392
8 Westview Dr.	Rural Route 3
Mitchell, Nina ..... 842-2246	Thompson, Eunice ..... 743-5392
325 Pierce	Rural Route 3
Mitchell, Justin ..... 842 2246	Tombaugh, Winifred ..... 844-7478
325 Pierce	555 W. Grove
Myers, Lori ..... 844-6724	Trainor, Mary ..... 844-3759
314 S. Vermillion	822 W. Moulton
Myers, Edward T. .... 844-6724	Trainor, Paul ..... 844-3759
314 S. Vermillion	822 W. Moulton
Pearre, Erma ..... 844-3339	Unterman, Lynda ..... 844-6303
105 Carol Ct.	1208 Indiana
Perring, Reva ..... 844-3791	Unterman, Dr. Bruce .... 844-6303
1805 Derron Dr.	1208 Indiana
Perring, John ..... 844-3791	Votti, Virginia ..... 842-2529
1805 Derron Dr.	405 W. Torrance
Phillips, Henry W. .... 692-3652	Weber, Marcia ..... 844-5439
206 W. Elm, Fairbury 61739	Rural Route 4
Potter, Claire ..... 743-5788	Wessels, Roger ..... 692-2008
Rural Route, Graymont 61743	Rural Route 1, Fairbury 61739
Rupple, Edith ..... 844-6222	Winters, Eleanor ..... 844-3648
409 S. Mill	812 Illini
Sancken, Barbara ..... 844-6065	Wolff, Helen ..... 844-5922
Rural Route 2	407 W. Grove
Schlosser, Robert A. ... 844-5736	Worthington, Gordon .... 844-3266
811 W. Moulton	1806 Forrest View Dr.
Scouller, Jane ..... 844-3521	Yost, J. Paul ..... 844-7401
325 S. Oak	298 W. Water
Sellmyer, Lorraine ..... 844-5044	
404 E. Madison	
Shonkwiler, Charles ....	
P. O. Box 315	
Shonkwiler, Viva ..... 842-2649	
1011 W. Washington	

# The Livingston County Historical Society

c/o Pontiac National Bank, P.O. Box 680, Pontiac, Il. 61764

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

U P D A T E  
Page Eight

Issue Number Four  
26 April 1984

The Livingston County Historical Society has been fortunate in receiving unique and valuable artifacts. Artifacts are stored in various places pending the day that we have an operational museum. It is hoped that our Society will continue to be remembered by friends who have historical artifacts. It is also hoped that our Society will be mentioned in wills and endowments. Contributions to the Society are excellent memorials.

Even though in storage, it is possible to examine some of the Society's artifacts; and students of history should find many of them to be of some value. Those who use the Society's artifacts as a source of information should follow rules approved from time to time by the Society.

An item in the Society's artifacts that shall be shared with readers of this issue of UPDATE is a pack of seventy-one 3"x5" file cards, containing more than two hundred eighty hand written notes. At the early age of seventeen, the late Jersey Green Whitson started the file. Usually signing with his initials, J. G. Whitson was known to friends as "Jers." Toward the end of his service of twenty years, five consecutive terms, as Livingston County Circuit Clerk, Mr. Whitson became associated with the E. Hoobler firm known as, Livingston County Abstract Co. Jersey G. Whitson had a long career in the abstract business. His unusual file is more a record of the community than a personal diary. The cards were given to the Society by Lena (Klein) Vail, an officer of the abstract company.

Reproduced below and on the next two pages are selected items from the cards. The open text closely follows the respective text as found on the cards; and the preparer of UPDATE supplied the text within brackets [], most of that information being gleaned from city directories and from scrapbooks of newspaper clippings in the Society's artifacts.

- 
- 1894 Jan 23 Grandpa Shenk died today. [Earliest entry in J. G. Whitson card file. Grandpa Shenk was Mr. Whitson's maternal grandfather.]
- " May 24 Public Library dedicated. [Opened to public on 5 July 1894.]
- 1895 Mar 26 Bolander's Wagon Shop burned today.
- " Oct 22 The first brick for any paving in this City was laid today by W. H. Bently about 3:30 P.M. [W. H. Bently had a coal and lumber business on E. Madison St. at Wabash R.R.]
- " Nov 25 The pavement was finished around the square today.
- " November Pontiac's first Directory has just been published. [In the 1895 Directory, J. G. Whitson is listed as a clerk in Ralph F. Bradford's drug store and residing at the NW corner of Livingston and Walnut Sts.; later, as house numbering developed, his address became 321 E. Livingston St. Ralph F. Bradford was also Post Master in Pontiac for a number of years.]
- [NOTE - 1897 Nov 1 (A Monday), J. G. Whitson attained the age of 21 years.]
- 1898 Feb 1 Ralph gave me raise. Now getting \$37.50 per mo.
- " Apr 7 Post Office Clerks: Geo. Sims, Dick Lord, Lina Swygert and Cora Veatch; Mail Carriers: Milt Mossholder, Will Knapp, Clyde Riggs and Jesse Slyder; Sub. Henry Tate.
- 1899 May 3 Took my first degree in Masonry.
- " " 30 " " second " " "
- " Jun 6 " " third " " "

[Continued on next page.]



## U P D A T E

Continued from Page Eight.

Page Nine

- [NOTE - 1900 September A circuit court personnel list indicates that J. G. Whitson was a deputy for Circuit Clerk, E. Hoobler.]
- 1902 Feb 21 Gus Swygert, Wine Hercules, H. H. Smith, and I took second Royal Arch degree. [Jacob W. Hercules may have had a nick name.]
- " Baron and I sat up with Thomas Spafford. [Exact date not given.] [See Apr 5 below for "Baron."]
- " Mar 27 Tenth Anniversary of Vermilion Club. [A young men's club that carried the name of our river. Became Elk's Club in 1906.]
- " Apr 5 Party at E. O. Reed [home]. Present: M. H. Root, Ruddy Fox, Ralph Bradford, J. M. Lyon, Baron Greenebaum, A. C. Norton, & Dr. Marshall. [The home of E. O. Reed, County Treasurer, was located at 406 S. Mill St. In the Greenebaum family, it may have been "Moses H." who was known as "Baron."]
- " Jun 6 John Wolff and I sat up with Truman Kellog. [John C. Wolff later became the father of Society member, Helen Wolff.]
- 1904 Sep 3 Rails for interurban now laid from I.C.R.R. south to Public School on Livingston St. Nothing north of I.C.R.R. yet.
- " Oct 10 Interurban laying track on east side of Square.
- " Oct 19 A. J. Braunberger, Wm. Hoffrichter, H. G. & Jake Greenebaum and I left for Worlds Fair at St. Louis.
- [NOTE - 1904 November In 1904 election, R. Gordon Sinclair became Circuit Clerk and J. G. Whitson continued as deputy.]
- 1904 Nov 27 Dr. Means barn burned; so did new auto, one of first in town. [There were two dentists named Means; they had separate offices and residences.]
- 1905 Apr 23 First interurban car to run from from Odell to Pontiac, about 2:30 P.M., Carl Denslow, Conductor.
- " Jun 4 Played first game of golf in Bruner's pasture east of Fairgrounds. [Could not decipher the names of his companions.]
- " Jul 26 The new car "Pontiac" made its first interurban trip up town this eve. Same car we saw at Worlds Fair in ST. L.
- " Sep 30 First foot ball game at Myers field: Dwight 11, Pontiac H.S. 11.
- 1907 Feb 2 Mary Dolde died at St. James Hospital about 8 o'clock this evening. This was the first operation in new hospital.
- 1908 Jul 1 Gordon Sinclair filed my primary petition for Clerk.
- " Dec 7 First day as Circuit Clerk. J. C. Wolff started in as Deputy til Carl L. Scatterday finishes up his business at Pontiac Shoe Mfg. Co. F. S. Ludwick second deputy.
- " " 15 C. L. Scatterday started in as Deputy.
- " " " Masons celebrated 50" Anniversary in Rathbun building today; A. E. Harding only living charter member present. [Mr. Harding was an attorney.]
- 1909 Jan 6 R. D. Folks fell off of stage of his opera house this eve.
- " " 8 R. D. Folks died today.
- " " 11 The government proposes to build a Post Office on the S.W. Cor. of Madison & Plum Sts. where the Tel. & Express Offices, Calkins Blacksmith Shop, G. H. Miller's Plumbing Shop and other small stores in that block are located.
- " Jan 26 J. C. Wolff announced he was married to Fleta Owens in Wheaton, Ill. last Thanksgiving day.
- " Feb 1 J. C. Wolff resigns from Liv. Co. Abs. Co. and starts to work for Paul Balbach today.
- [Continued on next page.]

# UPDATE

Page Ten

Continued from Page Nine.

- 1909 Jul 5 Automatic Home Tel Co. had \$5000.00 fire last night.
- " Oct 9 Liv. Co. Nat. Bk. moved to Hoobler Abstract Office (South S. Sq.), will put up new building. [At 211 N. Mill St., the new one story bank building had a cut stone front. The space is now the north portion of the G. C. Murphy Co. store. The abstract office was located at 112 W. Washington St. for many years.]
- 1910 Jul 15 H. D. Wolff started to work in office.
- 1911 Aug 14 Pontiac & Liv. Co. was treated today to its first sight of an air-ship. Harry N. Atwood in his biplane landed near the Reformatory about 2:50 P.M. and stayed til 4:20 P.M. Was on his way from St. Louis to New York.
- 1912 Mar 15 Bond's Nickelodeun, The Western Union Tel. Office & Dolde's Wagon Shop burned today. Quite a blaze.
- " Jun 5 Electric lights turned on E. side of Square, first time.
- " " 6 " " " " W. " " " " " "
- " " 12 " " " " S. " " " " " "
- " " 13 " " " " N. " " " " " "
- " Nov 12 Democrats carried everything; I was the only republican elected. Whitson Rep. 3521; Grinsell Dem. 3036; Hoover 2410.
- 1913 Feb 10 New Post Office opened for inspection today.
- " " 12 New Post Office opened for business first time; R. F. Bradford, Post Master.
- " Dec 30 First Taxi Cab service by Pontiac Motor Car Co. Morrison & Taylor. "A Ford."
- 1914 Jul 14 Drove Ford for first time, Cullom.
- " Aug 20 Bought a Ford, "Irene"
- 1915 Sep 17 A cur killed our pet squirrel in C. H. yard.
- 1917 Mar 4 Proposition to build new Mill St. Bridge carried.
- 1918 Jan 19 Automatic Home Tel. Co. closed deal to take over Bell Co.
- " Sep Pres. Wilson ordered the making of beer stopped on Oct. 1, 1918.
- " Oct 1 No More Beer.
- 1920 Nov Everything [went] Republican. I was high [in vote count]. Everybody received over 7000 plurality. The women voted.
- 1921 May 31 Pontiac Golf and Country Club formally opened today.
- " Jul 2 Jack Dempsey knocked Carpentier out in the fourth round today.
- -- -- [This is the last item in the file.] -- -- --

UPDATE readers are indebted to the late Jersey G. Whitson for serving as our reporter in observing and recording these incidents of history. Mr. Whitson continued his interest in the community throughout a long and useful life. We are pleased that Lena (Klein) Vail made this contribution to the Livingston County Historical Society.

Only a few bits of our Society's hidden treasures have been shared with you in this issue of UPDATE. The need to have our own storage and a place to display the Society's artifacts grows. As that need is met, even more arifacts are likely to be given to our Society. Livingston County needs a central facility where people can study the heritage of the area.

*It is hoped that those who read these pages of UPDATE will be moved to do what they can to speed the day that our Society has an operational museum.*

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

U P D A T E  
Page Eleven

Issue Number Five  
27 September 1984

First a correction: Quoting from UPDATE of 22 March 1984, Page Five, "In 1948, the Rev. Ryan died and L. W. Tuesburg . . . became president." A search of the Society's records reveals that after the death of the Reverend John H. Ryan, the office of President remained vacant into 1963. In November 1963, Mr. J. Paul Yost was elected President.

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Second: Although there were no program meetings during the summer months, activities of the Livingston County Historical Society did not cease. A Daily Leader article on May 26, 1984, carried the heading, "Jones House fundraising planned." Quoting a sentence in the article: "The Humiston Trust has offered to match funds if the historical society can raise \$11,125 by April, 1985."

A joint meeting of the Society's Board of Directors and of the Restoration Committee met on 13 July at the Board Room of the Pontiac National Bank. John Perring, Restoration Committee Chairman, outlined the need of raising funds to match the Humiston Trust offer. Perring also cited the need to have the addition to the Jones House to provide essential services that cannot now be provided. The meeting was adjourned for several weeks, during which time each of us would try to raise funds to meet the \$11,125 goal. We met again on August 30. Although the goal had not been met, considerable headway had been made. A third meeting was held on September 14th. The goal had not been met, but it is within target range. A ham and bean dinner was discussed and plans made to hold it on Saturday, the 10th of November at the Methodist Church Educational Building. All members are urged to help the Society in any way that they can.

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Third: A BIT OF JONES HOUSE GENEALOGY

"Who was Jones?" -- "Why the name JONES, if Jones did not build it?" It is wonderful that so many questions are asked about THE JONES HOUSE. Finding and supplying answers to a few questions is the purpose of this genealogy study and report. JONES is the late Henry C. Jones who purchased the property a few months before the turn of this century, 5 August 1899. The earliest instance of his name, that I have found in this study, is in the 1850 census of Livingston County.

In 1850, James and Nancy (Margaret Nace) De Moss lived a few miles east and south of the village of Pontiac. Listed in their household in the 1850 census are four of their offspring, including daughter Emily Jones. The 1850 census list continues with offspring of Emily (De Moss) Jones: Rebecca, age 17; Martha, age 16; Melinda, age 15; Henry, age 12; and Eliza, age 10, all five born in Indiana; born in Iowa, Joseph, age 7; and born here in Illinois, James, age seven months. Although not shown in the 1850 census, Henry had an initial, "C." The death record for Henry C. Jones shows a birth date of 11 February 1838.

Records show that the husband of Emily, and the father of Emily's seven offspring named above, including Henry C., was also named Henry. Papa Henry was probably born in Ohio. He is the Henry Jones who was elected to the office of Judge of Livingston County on 21 November 1857.



# The Livingston County Historical Society

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

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On 1 October 1855, Papa Jones, late of Emmet County, Iowa, purchased lot six in block twenty-nine. Arrangements for the construction of a brick residence on the property were made by Papa Jones. This structure, apparently completed early in 1857, is reported to be the first brick residence in the county; it still stands at 315 West Howard Street.

Early in 1859, Papa Jones may have run out of money and it seems that he may have gone, sans spouse and family, to parts unknown; unknown at least to this study. A special election was held on 6 May 1859 to select a judge to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Jones. In February of 1860, the brick home was sold at public auction to pay off the mortgage. In April of 1860, spouse Emily signed a quit claim deed to the property and received two hundred and twenty-five dollars.

In his teen years, Henry C. Jones may have learned more about people, politics, financial woes, errant fathers, and the power of the press than many are able to learn in a lifetime. On the southeast corner of lot six on which the brick home was built, a small printing establishment stood. It was known as The Law and Sandford Publishing Company. Philip Cook and Mark Alex Renoe are but two of the printers who may have impressed young Henry. Mark Renoe married Henry's sister, Eliza; and Henry and Mark were partners for a time. Mark remained in Pontiac, where he enjoyed a long career in the printing industry. Henry, apparently, learned the knack of finding and acquiring an ailing company, preferably a newspaper, revitalizing the business, and then selling the firm at a profit.

On 10 December 1856, for one hundred and twenty-five dollars, Job E. Dye purchased property on the corner of Howard and Chicago Streets, where the Catholic Rectory is now located, lot eight in block thirty-two. Job was born in Ohio about 1820, his wife, Mary A., was born about 1830 also in Ohio. Job and Mary Dye lived many years at this location.

On 13 February 1857, John Dehner and Job Dye purchased a store building on the west side of the square, about where the Clothes Closet is located, lot nine in block forty-eight, in consideration of two hundred and thirty dollars. John Dehner was born about 1808 in Prussia, and his wife, Jane, was born about 1818 in Virginia. John and Jane had a son, Joseph A. Dehner, born about 1840 in Indiana. John Dehner and Job E. Dye were partners in a dry goods store known as Dehner & Co. There is a possibility that a relationship existed between the Dehner and Dye families.

On East Madison Street, beginning late in 1857, an event that day after day undoubtedly drew its share of onlookers, including young Henry C. Jones, would have been the building of the second brick residence of the area. It is doubtful that Henry, although nearing his majority years, had dreams of ever owning this particular house. It would have been a good bet, though, that Henry knew each brick mason, carpenter, and worker by name. It should almost be a certainty that Henry was well acquainted with the Dehner family, the family who would occupy the new brick home.

On 23 October 1857, for a consideration of five hundred dollars, John Dehner purchased the above property, lots one and two in block fifty-one. On lot two, even before this purchase, a small frame building may have been built as a temporary home. The brick structure was built directly

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Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

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in front of the small frame structure with an opening between, the two units becoming one home of adequate size for the Dehner family.

There is a possibility that Job Dye made most of the arrangements for the purchase of the above property and the construction of the buildings. In the 1857 tax collector's record, Job Dye is shown as the owner, and \$100 is the tax valuation. A line is drawn through Job's name. Job paid the tax of \$1.67 in the name of John Dehner. In 1858, Job Dye is again shown as the owner, and the tax is calculated on the same valuation as the year before, \$1.36 is the total. The valuation of \$100 was erased and lines drawn through the various entries. The revised valuation is \$366 and the revised total is \$4.98, which John Dehner paid. On 17 February 1858, Job Dye, for thirty-three hundred dollars, sold his half interest in the store to John Dehner, ending the partnership. A biographical sketch of Job Dye is in the WM. LE BARON, Jr. & CO. 1878 History of Livingston County.

Upon its completion, there were few, if any, homes in Pontiac at that time that had the architectural excellence of John Dehner's new brick home. A bit more than a year later, it was the scene of a gala event. Joseph A. Dehner and Miss Mary A. Long were married on 21 April 1859, the Reverend J. Mendell, a Methodist Minister, officiating.

The Dehner & Co. enterprise prospered for a number of years. The business expanded to the south, taking in the space where Lehman's Men's Store now stands. A home was purchased for son Joseph and his family. The Dehner family were living quite well. Beginning in 1875, financial problems overtook John Dehner. He lost his business and his home. Everything was gone by 1879, and he had left town. Lots one, two (on which the brick home stood), seven, and eight were sold at public auction at the west door of the courthouse on 16 December 1878. \$2,854.52 was the best bid for the four lots. It was made by Mary P., Rose, Edgar B., and Charles D. Camp. Subtracting purchase date from auction date, lot two had been held by John Dehner for twenty-one years, one month and twenty-four days.

Henry C. Jones and Mary A. Bancroft were married here in Pontiac by the Reverend F. M. Chaffie, a Methodist Minister, on 23 September 1872. The parents of Mary A. were Luther R. and Jane (Wanzer) Bancroft, who were married in the state of New York in 1838. Their only child, Mary A., was born on 23 September 1852 in Macedon, New York. Jane died in May of 1857. In 1859, Luther married Sarah H. Green, and to them two children were born, James L. and Edna. The Luther Bancroft family came to Livingston County in 1861, and Luther Bancroft is a subject of a sketch in the 1878 History of Livingston County, mentioned earlier.

To Henry and Mary only one child was born, Helen M. in 1873. She lived one year and one month. Helen is buried in the Jones burial plot in the Pontiac City Cemetery. Henry had relatives in Texas and in California. He and Mary, apparently, lived a period of time in each of those states. At some point in time, Henry and Mary adopted a child who had been born in Chicago on 25 December 1885. Although papers were never filled out, they raised and loved Nelle J. as though she had been born to them.

Returning to the auction sale of Dehner property. Two of the four joint bidders, Edgar B. and Charles D. Camp, sold their undivided interest in

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Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

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lots one and two to Mary P. Camp on 14 February 1883. Philip Arman purchased lots one and two from Mary P. and Rose Camp on 2 May 1883.

Henry C. Jones purchased lots one and two from Philip Arman on 5 August 1899. At that point in time, Henry had attained the age of sixty-one years. Although Henry may have had several interests, ice had a strong appeal. He and James Bancroft, his brother-in-law, formed a partnership known as Jones and Bancroft, operators of The Pontiac Ice Company. The company had an ice house on East Park Street, near the northeast corner of Chautauqua Park, and a downtown office.

For the home on lot two, in these pages, this is the second time that the phrase, a gala event, is appropriate for the occasion. Nelle J. Jones and the Reverend Roy G. Hershey were married on 1 November 1910. The Reverend John H. Ryan officiated. This is the same J. H. Ryan who, in 1924, helped to form our Society and served as its first President.

The operators of The Pontiac Ice Co. decided to change their status to that of a corporation. On 29 February 1912, Jones and Bancroft deeded The Pontiac Ice Co. assets to the corporation that they had formed. Thus the firm known as The Pontiac Ice and Fuel Company was born.

In 1905, Henry transferred the title of the home, lots one and two, to his wife. Henry C. Jones died on 12 June 1921, age eighty-three years, four months and one day. His will, signed on 28 January 1920, was in order. Having purchased the brick home on 5 August 1899, Henry had, in essence, owned the home twenty-one years, ten months, and seven days at the time of his death. This is eight months and 14 days longer than John Dehner had held the property, including the interval of building the home.

Mary A. Jones died on 7 September 1942, age eighty-nine years, eleven months and fourteen days. Her will was also in order, leaving lot two (and house) to her daughter, Nelle J. Hershey. On 26 May 1944, Nelle died and the property passed to her husband, the Reverend Roy G. Hershey. Roy Hershey, born 29 September 1882 in Osage City, Kansas, died 24 June 1955, had made arrangements that when he died the property would go to his protégé, Gerald Maxwell. On 13 November 1957, Gerald Maxwell sold the property, lot two (and house), to John and Naomi Koehler.

After a bad fire in the rear framed portion on 12 September 1975, the prospect of demolition of the whole structure loomed. The late Francis E. Lehman and the late Reid R. Tombaugh, acting as concerned members of the Livingston County Historical Society, purchased the property on 21 April 1976. It was deeded to our Society on 3 June 1977.

Overlooking a few technicalities, the transfer from Maxwell to Koehler was the first transfer of the property in this century, in which money was the consideration. From before the turn of this century, the Jones House had been handed from Henry to Mary to Nelle to Roy and then to Gerald, each time without money, a span of a bit more than fifty-eight years. Henry C. Jones, holding memories of his youth--when he watched the house take form, brick by brick--chose this home for his later years. It is appropriate that it be known as The Jones House.  
Robert Arnold Schlosser, September 1984.

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

UPDATE  
Page Fifteen

Issue Number Six  
25 October 1984

Sorry to say: Issue Number Five of UPDATE contains a number of errors. Those who are filing or saving each issue of UPDATE should discard all four pages of issue five. Revised versions are available at this October meeting. The revised Issue Number Five of UPDATE has the following identification on each page: (Rev. 10/84)

Most of the information used in compiling A BIT OF JONES HOUSE GENEALOGY was gathered at the Courthouse and at the Pontiac Public Library. Other sources were the Methodist Church, the Pontiac Fire Department, cemetery inscriptions, the Society's Archives, and one personal interview. More than a hundred pages of Courthouse records were copied on their copy machines. Notes were made of material that would be difficult to copy on a machine. At the Library, notes were made of census records, items in early histories, and data found in city directories. This is a continuing project, which will include a future talk program.

Winifred Tombaugh graciously provided a recent addition to the Society's Archives. It is a slender booklet of eight pages bearing the title: BULLETIN NO. 1 of the Livingston County Historical Society, March 5, 1925. The booklet carries a seven page article beginning on page two entitled, "Early Indian History of Livingston County." As explained below, the article was written by the late Henry J. Meis of Pontiac. The booklet was "Published and Distributed by the KIWANIS CLUB OF PONTIAC." The first page of the booklet carries a FOREWORD message from which two paragraphs are quoted as follows:

"At a meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Pontiac in November [1924] the following paper on the Indian life, habits and history of this region was read by Kiwanian Henry Meis. Mr. Meis has long been a collector of Indian relics and a student of Indian lore. He has a large and interesting collection of relics found in various parts of this county.

"The members of Kiwanis were so impressed with the paper that it resulted in bringing about definite action on the formation of a Livingston County Historical Society. A committee consisting of Henry Meis, Grant Armstrong, D. S. Myers, Jr., J. B. Grotevant and W. W. McCulloch was appointed to take initial steps. The Rev. John H. Ryan was added to the committee at their first meeting, the other members feeling that no other man in the county is better versed in its early history."

A Certificate of Incorporation was granted on 11 December 1924 by the State of Illinois. Thus our Society was born; and soon it will have its sixtieth birthday. There will be more about the birthday next month. In a special format, you can obtain an exact reproduction of the text of the above booklet. A donation of One Dollar per copy is suggested.

Our fund raising drive is still short of its goal by about two thousand dollars. Your help on the Ham and Bean Dinner will take care of a portion of the needed funds. At this point, we still need contributions to match the Humiston Trust offer. With the completion of this building project, the JONES HOUSE should become functional--WHICH WE NEED.

Don't forget--Ham, Beans & Cornbread Dinner 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Saturday, November 10, 1984.  
Adults \$3.00, Children 12 & Under, \$1.50. At First United Methodist Church.  
Contributions to the Livingston County Historical Society are tax deductible.



# The Livingston County Historical Society

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

UPDATE  
Page Sixteen

Issue Number Seven  
20 November 1984

A society is composed of people and the Livingston County Historical Society has a wonderful membership. This was quite evident at the Ham, Beans, and Corn Bread Luncheon Project on Saturday, 10 November 1984, at the First United Methodist Church here in Pontiac. Several of our stalwart kitchen workers of previous years, due to recent illnesses, could not continue such efforts this year. Co-workers of past years, plus some new faces, put their shoulders to the kitchen work load. A significant change this year was the cooking of the ham and beans at eight separate homes. This eliminated the Herculean task of stirring beans, eighty pounds (dry weight), in large pots in the church kitchen, as was done in years past. All of the workers--those in the kitchen and dining room, and those who sold and/or purchased tickets, and anyone who helped in any way--are commended for their remarkable performance, the result of which is shown in the success of this year's Ham and Bean Project.

The net proceeds of the Ham and Bean Project reduces the gap in our fund raising to match the Humiston Trust offer. It is hoped that additional funding can be found in the next several weeks. The whole JONES HOUSE project depends on rebuilding the portion that existed even before the brick portion was originally built. The portion yet to be built will contain plumbing fixtures and cooking facilities, two items that are needed to make a viable structure for any useful purpose.

In Issue Number Six of UPDATE, several paragraphs carried an account of the formation, approximately sixty years ago, of the Livingston County Historical Society. The account indicated that the initiative for the formation of a County Historical Society came about at a meeting of the KIWANIS CLUB OF PONTIAC in November of 1924. About two weeks ago, at noon on the seventh of November, your President met with the KIWANIS CLUB and presented a resolution commending them for their efforts on our behalf, six decades ago. The presentation is reported in THE DAILY LEADER, on page five of the November eighth issue.

The sixtieth anniversary of the forming of our Society is a milestone in its history. To mark that milestone, several articles pertaining to our Society's history are planned for future issues of UPDATE.

As most of you know, we do not have a program in December. Our next program is scheduled for Thursday, 24 January 1985. On that evening, Maurice Steidinger of Fairbury will present a program entitled: "COLLECTIBLES." Be sure to attend the meeting, for the program and for the latest information concerning our fund raising for the JONES HOUSE. Bring a friend or two.

This is the last issue of UPDATE for the year 1984. Present plans are to continue UPDATE another year. The first 1985 issue of UPDATE is scheduled for the date of our next meeting, the twenty-fourth of January.

I wish each of you a pleasant Thanksgiving,

A MERRY CHRISTMAS, and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Robert Arnold Schlosser.

Founded, 11 December 1924

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Our Major Project is the Restoration of the JONES HOUSE, Built in 1857

## U P D A T E

Prepared by

Founded, 13 February 1984

Vol. 2, Page 1

Robert Arnold Schlosser

24 January 1985

Greetings to all for 1985. The new year brings one change in our list of officers. After two years of faithfully recording our meetings, in marvelous detail, Ferne Lehman did not wish a third term. Elected in November to the office of Secretary, Helen Wolff is known in Danville, Illinois, as a teacher and an organist. Here in Pontiac, Helen lives in the family home of her birth. Below is a listing of the 1985 officers and directors. First, though, let us go back sixty years to the time of founding and recognize our past Presidents:

1. DR. JOHN H. RYAN, a Methodist Minister: Served from the date of founding to the time of his death late in 1948. The vacancy was not filled for several years. The Society's Secretary, Grant C. Armstrong, an attorney, guided the Society until his death in 1955. Armstrong's law partner, and also a Society Director, Judge L. W. Tuesburg, guided the Society well into the year 1963; the year that the Society was reorganized.
2. J. PAUL YOST: Elected in 1963 and served to July 1, 1976; Paul is an active member and holds a Life Membership.
3. REID R. TOMBAUGH: Elected in 1976 and served to July 1, 1978. Now deceased, Reid was an active member for many years.
4. DORTHEA GREEN: Elected in 1978 and served to July 1, 1979.
5. J. M. (Mac) LUTHER: Elected in 1979 and served to the end of 1982. Mac is an active member and holds a Life Membership.
6. HAROLD J. BYRNE: Elected to serve the calendar year of 1983. Harold is an active member and holds a Life Membership.
7. ROBERT ARNOLD SCHLOSSER: Served calendar year of 1984.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 1985:

PRESIDENT: Robert Arnold Schlosser  
(844-5736) 811 W. Moulton St., Pontiac

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: Glenn Chenoweth  
(842-1584) Rural Route 3, Pontiac

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Lynda Unterman  
(844-6303) 1208 Indiana Ave., Pontiac

SECRETARY: Helen M. Wolff  
(844-5922) 407 W. Grove St., Pontiac

TREASURER: Marcia E. Cox  
(842-1539) 217 W. Grove St., Pontiac

## DIRECTORS:

3 Year:	J. Paul Yost	J. M. Luther	Betty Harris	Lynda Unterman
2 Year:	Kathy Grafton	Susan Michel	James McCabe	Arthur Grotevant
1 Year:	Mary Erickson	Paul Trainor	John Perring	Claire Potter

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

U P D A T E

Vol. 2, Page 2  
24 January 1985

Only a few changes need to be made in committee appointments for the year 1985. Hopefully, new committee appointments can be reported in the February issue of UPDATE. Betty Harris, Chairman of the Membership Committee, wishes to remind members that January is the time when yearly dues of five dollars per person are payable. Harris indicated that fourteen members hold Life Memberships. Life Memberships are \$100 per person. To increase our membership, Harris suggests that members bring guests who may wish to become members. We are an open society--anyone may attend meetings--anyone may become a member.

The two paragraphs that follow should be pleasant reading. We have reason to be proud of our affiliation; and very likely that pride will extend to others who may wish to join. The lower portion of this page carries a list of scheduled meetings and programs for the year.

As we enter 1985, there is within our Society a feeling of confidence and an awareness that 1985 should be an interesting year. We have the satisfaction of our Society attaining the significant age of sixty years; results of the Ham and Bean Dinner were the best ever; there is the sense of accomplishment in completing our raising of funds for the JONES HOUSE addition; the construction of which will also be exciting to follow--but the nicest happening is the thrilling transformation that has been brought about to the interior of the JONES HOUSE.

It is unlikely that the architectural excellence of the JONES HOUSE had not been perceived by Reid Tombaugh and Francis Lehman even before they purchased the property in 1976. A portion of that excellence became evident as the exterior was restored. With most of the decorating completed, that same excellence is evident on the inside. Painstaking research and the thoughtful selection of color and material by Mary Catherine Dievendorf and Thelma Asper has certainly created a beautiful interior for our land mark project.

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MEETINGS and PROGRAMS for 1985: 7:30 P.M. in the chapel on the second floor of Evenglow Lodge. Exception is the September program.

- Jan 24 - "Collectibles," by Maurice Steidinger of Fairbury
  - Feb 28 - "Beginning Genealogy Research," by Judith Adams, Fairbury
  - Mar 28 - "Genealogy of the Jones House," by Robert A. Schlosser
  - Apr 25 - "Old Fairbury Homes," by Betty Ficklin of Fairbury and  
Mabel Marljar of Strawn
  - May 23 - "Lorado Taft," by Merle Glick of Pekin  
(Made possible by a gift from J. Paul Yost)
  - Sep 26 - "Show of Old Pictures," this program to be held at  
The Jones House in observance of our 60th anniversary.
  - Oct 24 - "The Coming of Railroads to Livingston County," by  
Edward T. Myers of Pontiac
  - Nov 26 (A Tues.) - To be announced.
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Founded, 11 December 1924

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Our Major Project is the Restoration of the JONES HOUSE, Built in 1857-8

## UPDATE

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

Founded, 13 February 1984

Vol. 2, Page 3  
25 April 1985

## COMMITTEES for 1985

### PROGRAM:

Robert Schlosser, Acting Chairman,  
Mabel Marlar, Betty Harris, J. Paul Yost, Kathy Grafton,  
Barbara Sancken, Ferne Lehman.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Betty Harris, Chairman,  
Mary Catherine Dievendorf, Lorraine Sellmeyer.

### PUBLICITY:

Susan Michel.

### FINANCE: (FUND RAISING INCLUDED)

Marcia Cox, Chairman,  
John Perring, Claire Potter, J. Paul Yost, Eilene Foley,  
Harold Byrne, James McCabe, Glenn Chenoweth.

### NOMINATING:

Harold Byrne, J. M. Luther, J. Paul Yost.

### HISTORIAN:

Pearle Sutherland.

### ARTIFACT CURATORY: (JONES HOUSE artifacts not included)

Mary Erickson, Chairman,  
Claire Potter, Dorothy Mortimore, James McCabe,  
Glenn Chenoweth.

### JONES HOUSE: (CONSTRUCTION, FURNISHING, LANDSCAPING)

John Perring, Chairman,  
Betty Harris, J. M. Luther, Lynda Unterman, J. Paul Yost,  
Marcia Cox, Mary Erickson, Claire Potter, Kathy Grafton,  
Harold Byrne, Mary Catherine Dievendorf, Thelma Asper.

### REFRESHMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

Arthur Grotevant and Paul Trainor.

DO YOU KNOW? The State Charter for The Livingston County Historical Society enables our Society to take an active part in various projects and sponsorships. Contributions to our Society are tax deductible, and purchases made by our Society are exempt from state sales tax. If there is a special project to which you wish to contribute and/or sponsor, consider this fact: Either cash or property donations are acceptable to our Society, but if you purchase the item you will pay state sales tax. Our Society can buy the item free of state sales tax and sometimes we get a discount. Our Society can handle books and manuscripts on a long term basis. Corporations, such as our Society, do not die. Your writing efforts can be stocked and distributed long beyond a normal lifetime. The Livingston County Historical Society welcomes your inquiries and your support.



# The Livingston County Historical Society

Our Major Project is the Restoration of the JONES HOUSE. Built in 1857-8

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

UPDATE  
(Founded 13 February 1984)

Vol. 2, Page 4  
24 October 1985

## **JONES HOUSE History:**

Issue Number Five of UPDATE, dated 27 September 1984, carried a short history of the JONES HOUSE. Unfortunately the first printing contained a number of errors. In Issue Number Six of UPDATE, mention was made of those errors and a revised copy was offered. The revised Issue Number Five of UPDATE has the following identification on each page: (Rev. 10/84). Several errors can also be found in the revised UPDATE, however, they have little affect on the history or the story of the JONES HOUSE.

A talk program entitled, GENEALOGY OF THE JONES HOUSE, was prepared for the 28 March 1985 meeting of the Society. For those who could not attend the meeting, a booklet containing the text of the talk was prepared. The talk was presented on two other occasions, with a few changes of the text on each occasion. As research of the subject continued and more information was gathered, the text of the talk was further revised and it is now identified as the "June 1985 Version" of GENEALOGY OF THE JONES HOUSE. The booklet of nine pages is priced at \$1.25 per copy.

Source material gathered but not used in the Talk Program should not remain unused, therefore an APPENDIX has been started. APPENDIX, Part One, for GENEALOGY OF THE JONES HOUSE was released in September. It has sixteen pages and carries a price of \$1.75 per copy.

The text and all rights to the above booklets are the property of the Society and they are financially supported by a "Special Fund" of the Society.

Errors and unclear statements in source material can be troublesome. Footnotes are used in APPENDIX, Part One, to note source errors. Source material has been gathered that does not pertain directly to JONES HOUSE history. This material may, however, have value in reviewing a portion of early history of the area, and with this in mind the following paragraphs, which include the correction of one date error and the analyzing of a troublesome paragraph, are presented.

## **A Bit of Area History:**

Judge Billings P. Babcock was one of many subjects whose biographical sketches appear in the 1888 History of Livingston County. Although his sketch begins on page 523, the text of the following quote is found on page 524:

"He was elected Judge of the County Court in 1852, the duties of which office he discharged in an efficient manner three years, and then resigned in order to attend to personal matters of importance."

## **An Error:**

Referring to the first two paragraphs on page 262 in the 1878 History of Livingston County we find that Mr. Babcock was elected in 1853. If this information is correct, then 1852 in the above sketch is an error.

According to a rather complete table of Livingston County Judges on page 67 of the paper bound INVENTORY book published by the WPA in 1940, the actual date of Judge Babcock taking the oath of office was 7 December 1853. Thus we have further evidence that the year 1852 is an error in the sketch.

According to the 1940 WPA INVENTORY, Judge Babcock did resign at the end of his third year in office, and Judge Charles M. Lee--who took the oath of

office on 21 November 1856--served in Babcock's stead the remaining year of the four year term; and, in 1857, Henry Jones was elected to the office. In the 1878 History, the 1857 election of Henry Jones is reported on page 264.

**Building the Second Courthouse:**

In the Babcock sketch in the 1888 History, Judge Babcock takes credit for his part in the building of "the brick courthouse, which was destroyed by fire in 1874." This statement is supported by two paragraphs on page 242 in the 1878 History. The two paragraphs are quoted below:

"The second Court House was erected under the county judgeship of Billings P. Babcock, and was as good a building as could be erected at that time for the money expended. Judge Babcock gave the same particular care to every item of its material and construction that he displays in his own financial affairs.

"The previous year, Judge Henry Jones erected, at Pontiac, the first brick building ever erected in the county. It is the one that has recently been remodeled, and is now occupied as a residence by Joseph P. Turner. The brick of which it was composed were purchased at Bloomington and hauled to Pontiac; and, in stipulating with the contractors, Judge Babcock required the brick to be as good quality as the material used in the building of this house. This opened up a new industry, and the first bricks were made during the same year."

**A Troublesome Paragraph:**

The second paragraph of the above quote is troublesome in that a precise date or year is not given. It does not clear the matter very much to know that according to a deed recorded in Deed Book F, on page 296, Henry Jones purchased the property mentioned in the above quote on the first day of October in 1855, and that the brick residence still stands at 315 West Howard Street.

For the second courthouse to be built during the judgeship of Babcock, it would have been built before his resignation became effective, and before Judge Lee, his successor, took office on 21 November 1856. This change in judgeship is not mentioned on page 242 in the 1878 History. Matters are cleared up a bit when reference is made to page 72 in 1940 WPA INVENTORY book. Here it is stated that the decision to construct a new courthouse was made on December 4, 1855. The exact site for the new structure was determined on April 24, 1856, and the new building was accepted by the county on December 6, 1856.

The second paragraph appears somewhat more logical if the Henry Jones home was well along in construction by the end of year 1855. Even though the home would not have been entirely finished, the brick and other material for the new home could have been examined by Judge Babcock and building contractors many weeks before the contract for the courthouse was let.

**Summary:**

UPDATE's Bit of History, in a step by step procedure of examining source material, shows: that on 7 December 1853 Billings P. Babcock took the oath of office of Livingston County Judge, from which office he resigned three years later; that the second courthouse of the county was built during Judge Babcock's third year in office; that the new structure, a brick building, was accepted by the county on 6 December 1856; and that brick hauled from Bloomington to build the Henry Jones home, which still stands at 315 W. Howard St., became the standard of quality for brick that were used to build the second courthouse.

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Our Major Project is the Restoration of the JONES HOUSE, Built in 1857-8

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

UPDATE  
(Founded 13 February 1984)

Vol. 3, Page 1  
23 January 1986  
(Rev.)

## Greetings to all for 1986

The new year brings one change in our list of officers. Lynda Unterman did not wish to be re-elected to the office of second vice-president. We are pleased that Lynda continues to serve the Society as a director. In the new 1986 list of officers, the very capable Arthur Grotevant was selected for the office of second vice-president. The complete list follows:

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 1986:

PRESIDENT:	Robert Arnold Schlosser (844-5736) 811 W. Moulton St., Pontiac		
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:	Glenn Chenoweth (842-1584) Rural Route 3, Pontiac		
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:	Arthur Grotevant (844-5268) 907 E. Water St., Pontiac		
SECRETARY:	Helen M. Wolff (844-5922) 407 W. Grove St., Pontiac		
TREASURER:	Marcia E. Cox (842-1539) 217 W. Grove St., Pontiac		
DIRECTORS:			
3 Year:	Mary Erickson	Paul Trainor	John Perring
2 Year:	J. Paul Yost	J. M. Luther	Betty Harris
1 Year:	Kathy Grafton	Susan Michel	James McCabe
			Claire Potter
			Lynda Unterman
			Arthur Grotevant

### A Silver Gift:

Recently our Society received a gift of fifteen 1885 silver dollars from the Kankakee Federal Savings and Loan Association. Mr. John Monferdini, of their Dwight office, made the presentation to John Perring and Robert Schlosser, a picture of which appeared in the January tenth issue of The Daily Leader. One coin is mounted in a plastic display case, the other fourteen coins are in a plastic tube. These 1885 silver dollars are brilliant uncirculated coins that are not sealed and they have been handled, and they vary in value. We are guaranteed a price of forty dollars each for the fourteen by the giver, Kankakee Federal, if we wish to sell the coins back to them. Speaking for our Society, we are pleased to receive this gift from the Kankakee Federal Savings and Loan Association.

To make plans for the sale of the above coins, and to take care of certain other business, a meeting is called for the Society's officers and directors for Thursday, January 30, at 4 P.M. in the Board Room on the Mezzanine Floor of the Pontiac National Bank.

### Membership Dues:

Membership dues of five dollars per person per year are now due for the year 1986. Life Memberships are \$100 per person.

Our next meeting date is Thursday, February 27. Please come and bring a friend.

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Our Major Project is the Restoration of the JONES HOUSE, Built in 1857-8

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

UPDATE  
(Founded 13 February 1984)

Vol. 3, Page 2  
27 February 1986

## COMMITTEES for 1986

### JONES HOUSE: (Construction, Furnishing, Landscaping.)

John Perring, Chairman; Betty Harris, Kathy Grafton, Lynda Unterman,  
J. Paul Yost, Lloyd Erickson, Claire Potter, Marcia Cox, Thelma Asper,  
Mary Katherine Dievendorf, Earl Mortimore, Lawrence Hepperly.

### FINANCE: (Fund Raising Included.)

Marcia Cox, Chairman; John Perring, J. Paul Yost, Claire Potter,  
James McCabe, Paul Trainor, Glenn Chenoweth, Eileen Foley.

### HISTORIAN:

Pearle Sutherland.

### ARTIFACT CURATORY: (JONES HOUSE artifacts not included.)

Mary Erickson, Chairman; Claire Potter, Dorothy Mortimore,  
Glenn Chenoweth, James McCabe.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Betty Harris, Chairman; Mary Katherine Dievendorf, Lorraine Sellmeyer.

### PROGRAM:

Robert Schlosser, Acting Chairman; Mabel Marlar, Betty Harris,  
J. Paul Yost, Kathy Grafton, Barbara Sancken, Ferne Lehman.

### PUBLICITY:

Susan Michel.

### REFRESHMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

Arthur Grotevant, Dorothy Mortimore.

### NOMINATING:

Betty Harris, Chairman; Paul Trainor, Claire Potter, Eileen Foley,  
Mary Katherine Dievendorf.

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## CALENDAR OF 1986 MEETING DATES

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MARCH	20	SEPTEMBER	25
APRIL	24	OCTOBER	23
MAY	22	DECEMBER	4

The above dates are tentative and can be changed with due notice. All meetings are scheduled for 7:30 P.M. at the chapel on the second floor of Evenglow Lodge.

Note the March date. Because the fourth Thursday is Maundy Thursday of Holy Week, our meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday, the 20th of March. Holy week will again interfere in 1989.

At the present time, programs have not been selected for several of the above dates. Finding good programs to match a limited budget is a challenge. Also needed are volunteers to serve as host and/or hostesses for the meetings in March, October and December.

Founded, 11 December 1924

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Our Major Project is the Restoration of the JONES HOUSE, Built in 1857-8

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

UPDATE  
(Founded 13 February 1984)

Vol. 3, Page 3  
4 December 1986

## Our eighth and final meeting for 1986

Although twenty-seven days remain in the year, it seems safe to say that 1986 was a very good year for our Society. Some of the highlights of the year were: helping a wonderful group of concerned citizens save the old Fire House and City Hall Complex; adding finishing touches to "Phase One" of the JONES HOUSE; letting the Woman's Club Annual Walk have the "First look" at the "finished" JONES HOUSE; opening the JONES HOUSE to visitors on Sunday afternoons; repair of Carriage House; a Coin Auction; receiving and restoring newspaper Souvenirs of 1897 and 1906; placing copies of those Souvenirs and a booklet, "One Dozen (Plus) Noteworthy Historical Items," in the Pontiac Public Library; and we had a very successful Corn-bread and Ham & Bean Dinner. It is only with the help of many dedicated members that so much could be accomplished in one year.

A report of the Nominating Committee was presented at our October meeting, and an unanimous vote was cast for each nominee named.

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 1987

PRESIDENT:	Robert Arnold Schlosser, -----	844-5736
	811 W. Moulton St., Pontiac	
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:	John Perring, -----	844-3791
	1805 Derron Dr., Pontiac	
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:	Arthur Grotevant, -----	844-5268
	907 E. Water St., Pontiac	
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Helen M. Wolff, -----	844-5922
	407 W. Grove St., Pontiac	
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Reva Perring, -----	844-3791
	1805 Derron Dr., Pontiac	
TREASURER:	Marcia E. Cox, -- Off. 844-3171,	844-1539
	217 W. Grove St., Pontiac	
DIRECTORS:	(Three year term.)	
Kathy Grafton,	1202 N. Walnut St., Pontiac, IL 61764	842-2268
Arthur Grotevant,	907 E. Water St., Pontiac, IL 61764	844-5268
James J. McCabe,	Rural Route 2, Pontiac, IL 61764	844-7063
Susan Michel,	622 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL 61764	844-7326
	(Two years remaining.)	
Mary Erickson,	Rural Route 1, Cornell, IL 61319	844-5484
John Perring,	1805 Derron Dr., Pontiac, IL 61764	844-3791
Claire Potter,	Rural Route, Graymont, IL 61743	743-5788
Paul Trainor,	822 W. Moulton St., Pontiac, IL 61764	844-3759
	(One year remaining.)	
Betty Harris,	410 E. Water St., Pontiac, IL 61764	844-5938
Dorothy Mortimore,	304 E. Madison St., Pontiac, IL 61764	844-3436
Lynda Unterman,	720 S. Locust St., Pontiac, IL 61764	844-6303
J. Paul Yost,	298 W. Water St., Pontiac, IL 61764	844-7401

UPDATE wishes each of you A MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Our next meeting date is 22 January 1987.



Founded, 11 December 1924

# The Livingston County Historical Society

Our Major Project is the Restoration of the JONES HOUSE, Built in 1857-8

Prepared by  
Robert Arnold Schlosser

UPDATE  
(Founded 13 February 1984)

Vol. 4, Page 1  
22 January 1987

<b>1987 MEETING DATES</b> -->	January	22	May	28
Chapel, Evenglow Lodge, 7:30 P.M.	February	26	September	24
Dates are tentative.	March	26	October	22
	April	23	December	3

## COMMITTEES for 1987

### JONES HOUSE: (Construction, Furnishing, Landscaping.)

John Perring, Chairman; Betty Harris, Kathy Grafton, Lynda Unterman, J. Paul Yost, Lloyd Erickson, Claire Potter, Marcia Cox, Thelma Asper, Mary Katherine Dievendorf, Earl Mortimore, Lawrence Hepperly.

### FINANCE: (Fund Raising Included.)

Marcia Cox, Chairman; John Perring, J. Paul Yost, Claire Potter, James McCabe, Paul Trainor, Glenn Chenoweth, Eileen Foley.

### HISTORIAN:

Pearle Sutherland.

### ARTIFACT CURATORY: (JONES HOUSE artifacts not included.)

Mary Erickson, Chairman; Claire Potter, Dorothy Mortimore, Glenn Chenoweth, James McCabe.

### MEMBERSHIP:

Betty Harris, Chairman; Mary Katherine Dievendorf, Lorraine Sellmeyer.

### PROGRAM:

Robert Schlosser, Acting Chairman; Mabel Marlar, Betty Harris, J. Paul Yost, Kathy Grafton, Barbara Sancken, Reva Perring.

### PUBLICITY:

Susan Michel.

### REFRESHMENT ARRANGEMENTS:

Arthur Grotevant, Dorothy Mortimore.

### NOMINATING:

Betty Harris, Chairman; Paul Trainor, Claire Potter, Eileen Foley, Mary Katherine Dievendorf.

### CITY HALL and FIREHOUSE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE:\*

Robert Sear and Myrtle Mabry, Co-chairman of the COMMITTEE.

Dorothy Mortimore, Secretary of the COMMITTEE.

Kathy Grafton, Treasurer of the COMMITTEE.

\*This COMMITTEE received its name and status on 11 September 1986 when, as a newly formed citizen's committee, it became an arm of the corporate structure of our Society. Mabry and Sear have become members of our Society; Mortimore and Grafton are Board members; and several other Society members are members of the COMMITTEE. Although the Firehouse, City Hall, and Bell Tower still stand, there are problems yet to solve. The support and cooperation, not only of our Society, but of many friends is also needed. Present plans for future issues of UPDATE are: report progress on problems, provide membership information, review the circumstances that spawned a citizen's committee, and other items.

**IT IS DUES PAYING TIME!**

# The Livingston County Historical Society

"Preservation of the Jones House, and the City Hall--Firehouse Complex"

Prepared by

UPDATE

Robert Arnold Schlosser

(Founded 13 February 1984)

Vol. 4, Page 2

3 December 1987

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 1988

PRESIDENT:	John Perring,	-----	844-3791
	1805 Derron Dr.,	Pontiac	
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT:	Frank Sellmyer,	-----	844-5044
	404 E. Madison St.,	Pontiac	
SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT:	James J. McCabe,	-----	844-7063
	Rural Route 2,	Pontiac	
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Patricia A. Hamilton,	-----	842-6514
	804 Deerfield Rd.,	Pontiac	
	Pontiac Public Library,	-	844-7229
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Reva Perring,	-----	844-3791
	1805 Derron Dr.,	Pontiac	
TREASURER:	Marcia E. Cox,	-----	842-1538
	217 W. Grove St.,	Pontiac.	
	Pontiac National Bank,	-	844-3171
DIRECTORS:	Three year term:		
Robert Sear,	421 E. Payson St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	842-2744
Dorothy Mortimore,	304 E. Madison St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-3436
Lynda Unterman,	720 S. Locust St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-6303
J. Paul Yost,	298 W. Water St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-7401
	Two years remaining:		
Kathy Grafton,	1202 N. Walnut St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	842-2268
Robert A. Schlosser,	811 W. Moulton St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-5736
James J. McCabe,	Rural Route 2,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-7063
Susan Michel,	622 N. Main St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-7326
	One year remaining:		
Mary Erickson,	212 E. Lee St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-5484
John Perring,	1805 Derron Dr.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-3791
Claire Potter,	Rural Route,	Graymont, IL 61743	743-5788
Paul Trainor,	822 W. Moulton St.,	Pontiac, IL 61764	844-3759

The above slate of Officers and Directors was prepared by the Nominating Committee comprised of Betty Harris, Chairman, Mary K. Dievendorf, Eileen Foley, Claire Potter and Paul Trainor. Their report was presented by Betty Harris to the members who were assembled for the regular meeting of the Society on October 22, 1987, and the recommended nominees were accepted unanimously.

Changes for 1988: John Perring is elevated from First Vice-president to President, succeeding Robert Schlosser, who did not wish another term. Frank Sellmyer succeeds John Perring as First Vice-president. Jim McCabe becomes the Second Vice-president, filling a vacancy caused by the death of Arthur Grotevant. Pat Hamilton becomes our Recording Secretary, succeeding Helen Wolff who did not wish another term.

Betty Harris, Dorothy Mortimore, Lynda Unterman, and J. Paul Yost are completing their terms as Directors, and, with the exception of Harris, each of them are re-elected for another three year term. Robert Sear becomes a Director

for a three year term succeeding Betty Harris who did not wish to serve another three year term. Robert Schlosser becomes a Director in the "Two Years Remaining" portion, filling a vacancy caused by the death of Arthur Grotevant.

### Historic Structures

- A. **The oldest known** structure in Pontiac is the residence at 401 West Livingston Street. The building site was purchased by Z. H. Nettleton on the first day of July in 1855. It is presumed that the residence was built in the last half of that year. Today, William A. Harris of Chatsworth is the owner. Mr. Harris should be commended for painting and preserving the integrity of this residence.

- B. **The oldest brick** structure in the county, located at 315 West Howard Street, was recently sold, and it will probably be torn down in the near future.

**On the first** day of October 1855, exactly three months after the Nettleton purchase, the site for the above structure was purchased by Henry Jones who came here from Emmett County, Iowa. Soon after the purchase, Henry Jones put up a rather plain two story rectangular brick building in which he would operate a retail venture. In an 1869 drawing entitled, "A Bird's Eye View of Pontiac," this structure is shown in enough detail to get a good idea of its style and shape.

**In 1871**, two years after the drawing was made, the tax valuation of the structure was approximately one-fifth of its 1869 valuation. Such a drop in valuation could have been caused by fire. Perhaps in 1871, the front wall was rebuilt and the east wing added. In the "Bird's Eye View" drawing there was no east wing and the front wall has a different appearance. The junctions of the rebuilt front wall to the old sidewalls are clearly visible. Original sidewalls were made of brick hauled from Bloomington.

**In the "Bird's Eye View"** drawing it can be seen that the front wall of the structure had straight stone lintels above each window, matching the lintels that we see in the west wall. Windows in the front wall today have brick arches and decorative key-stones. Adding the east wing and changing the style of windows altered the architectural style of the building.

**The above** reconstruction is reflected in the 1872 tax valuation. It was back on a par with 1869 and previous years. It was probably at this time that it became a residence. This possibility is supported by the following quote from page 242 of The History Of Livingston County, Illinois, 1878: ". . . Judge Henry Jones erected, at Pontiac, the first brick building ever erected in the county. It is the one that has recently been remodeled and is now occupied as a residence by Joseph P. Turner."

**Down through** the years, additions have been added. For some years it was a funeral home. It is presently divided into apartments.

- C. **In October** of 1857, John Dehner purchased property on East Madison Street, the property that is now known as the Jones House. John Dehner, a Pontiac merchant, built the brick residence that our Society has restored.

**Although** Henry Jones erected his store building two years before the East Madison Street residence was built, John Dehner had lived in his lovely brick home for more than twelve years before the store building became a residence. Thus, of the two buildings, the home built by John Dehner is the earlier residence.

**The architectural** style of the brick portion of the Jones House has never been altered. All four walls are original. In 1975, the home was severely damaged by



fire. A timely purchase, on behalf of the Society, saved the fire ravaged structure from probable demolition. The brick portion of the building has been restored to its original fine appearance. There is evidence of a back room of frame construction that was in place before the brick portion was built. This back room served as a kitchen, but it was consumed in the 1975 fire. Now in construction is a new kitchen, a bath room and a bit of storage space.

**The Jones House** gets its name from Henry C. Jones, a son of the Henry Jones, who built the brick store building on Howard Street, see item B. Henry C. Jones purchased the residence in 1899. He died in 1921, and Mary Jones, his widow, died in 1942. Well before the death of Mary, the residence had become known as the Jones House.

A B C **Additional** data on the A B C structures, can be found in the pages of the booklet: "More Than One Dozen Noteworthy Historical Items," by Robert Schlosser. Booklets are available from the Livingston County Historical Society.

**In 1875**, our present Livingston County Court House was erected on the site where two previous Court Houses had stood. It is a Pontiac landmark. Much has been written about this structure, so it is not in need of further praise.

**The oldest church** building in Pontiac is the St. Mary's Church at the corner of Howard and Main Streets. This brick structure was built a bit more than one hundred years ago. Approximately fifty years ago the wings were added and the main portion was restored to its present elegance. A steeple sets off the dignity of the edifice. No other Pontiac church has as tall a steeple. The congregation deserves praise for preserving the architecture of a century ago.

**Diagonally** across the intersection from St. Mary's Church, is the Pontiac City Hall and Firehouse complex. Built in 1900, it was a big improvement over the cramped and rather ordinary quarters on the east side of the Court House Square. Built to fulfill the needs of a young and growing city, it also provided an imposing monumental edifice; a fitting structure for an important city in the county. It provided suitable quarters for city offices, and needed space for other facilities. One of its features is the bell tower. Resembling the front tower, the bell tower is integral to both the City Hall and the Firehouse, connecting the two portions of the complex. Our Society became involved in saving this complex when a group of concerned citizens objected to its probable demolition.

**This list of** six buildings could easily be expanded, two of which shall be mentioned. First is the two story brick residence at 833 North Hazel Street. Built by Charles Knight, it is often referred to as the Dr. Lockie home. Before Dr. Lockie, it was the home of Harry S. Allen, President of the Allen Candy Co., and also President of the Automatic Home Telephone Co. The second structure is the old Christopher C. Strawn frame home at 514 North Main Street.

As reported earlier in these pages, my status is changing from President to that of a Director. Hopefully, this change will give me more time to work on history projects for the Society, and on my own genealogy project.

Officers, Directors, Committee Chairmen and members, and the whole membership of the Society have been very helpful. With their help, the Society needed very little from me. It was a wonderful experience, and I wish John Perring the same helpful cooperation.

With Thanks, Robert Schlosser